

Daily Bible Reading

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TEXT—Give attention to reading.—I Timothy 4:12.

How one shall read the Bible depends largely on what he is reading it for. The Bible is an all-around book, and serves many purposes, but it is well to have in mind some definite purpose in all one's reading.

There is the devotional use of the Bible. All strung instruments quickly get out of tune. The action of the atmosphere, and the constant vibration in playing, relaxes the strings so that they need to be retuned very often. No matter how good the violin is, it needs to be tuned every day, and often many times a day.

Man is like a violin. He soon gets out of tune with God. The wear and tear of life, and the demoralizing atmosphere which sin creates, so affects his disposition that he needs to be brought into harmony with God every morning. It is not surprising, when we consider the subtlety of sin, and the weakness of the flesh, rather it is.

Strange that a harp of a thousand strings, Should keep in tune so long.

Nothing will bring the believer into touch with God so soon as a little taste of the Divine Word. For devotional purposes the Psalms are perhaps the best, because they cover so wide a range of experience. Here we find aspiration and confession, joy and sorrow, adoration and praise. Here we behold the calm confidence which grows out of a sublime faith. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Again we meet the bitter anguish which comes from ingratitude, or unrequited love, or the ecstasy of sin forgiven as in Psalm 32, or the passionate plea for mercy in Psalm 51, or the shout of triumph in Psalm 68. It is doubtful if there is any experience in life for which we cannot find a duplicate in the psalter, and, noting how the man after God's own heart behaved in similar emergencies, we are unconsciously led into the same feeling.

In the morning read Psalm 19, and at even Psalm 8. If you are going on a journey, Psalm 121 is appropriate. If it be Sunday, 122. If in perplexity, read Psalm 37. If you are grateful, choose, 105, or 106, or 107. If your heart needs searching, Psalm 139 will accomplish it. "O, Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me," and after a sublime description of God's omniscience, closing with the prayer which only an honest heart can utter: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." If it is comfort you need, you will find it in abundance in either of the following Psalms, 34, 91 or 103.

The gospels are also excellent for devotional reading because there we come in contact with the words and works of Jesus. We see how he lived in the home and by the wayside, in the carpenter's shop, and by the open grave. We see him in public life and in private ministry always the same, never hurried, nor worried, always thinking of others and never of himself. We see him playing with the children, watching the hens in the door yard, and the birds on the trees, the growing grains and fading flowers. In everything he saw God's love and care, and from all things natural he drew some spiritual lesson for his own and others' comfort.

If it be asked how much one should read at a time for devotional purposes, let me answer with an illustration. I once saw a picture of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. The master has just left them and the two are looking at each other in glad astonishment. One of them is holding both hands over his heart as he says with rapture, "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" He can almost feel his heart burn still as he recalls the memory of that blessed walk.

If you ask how long one shall read his Bible for devotional purposes, I answer, read until your heart burns, until your soul thrills with the consciousness of God's approval. You may read a chapter or a book or a single verse, no matter how much or how little, but read if you can, until you are consciously in touch with God, and then, with the father's morning kiss upon your lips, you are ready to meet the outside world.

Some people feel that they cannot spare the time for the morning watch, but I question whether any child of God can afford to do without it. Our souls need to be fed daily as well as our bodies, and the Bible is the soul's proper food. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

HANDICRAFT FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

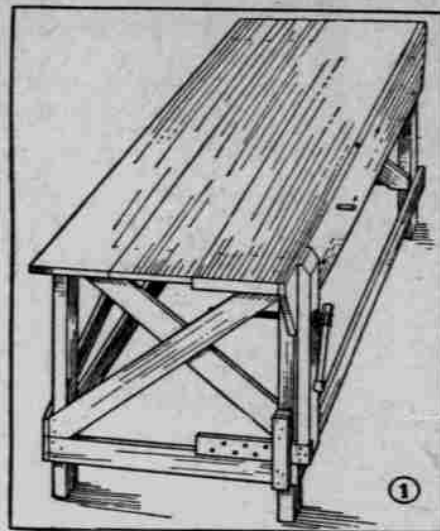
By A. NEELY HALL and DOROTHY PERKINS

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A HOME WORK-BENCH.

It will be worth your while to save up nickels and dimes for the material necessary to build the work-bench in Fig. 1, because with such a bench you can make many things that would not be possible otherwise.

Fig. 2 shows how the framework is constructed. The legs (A) are two-by-fours two feet long, the top plates (B) are two-by-fours, the length of

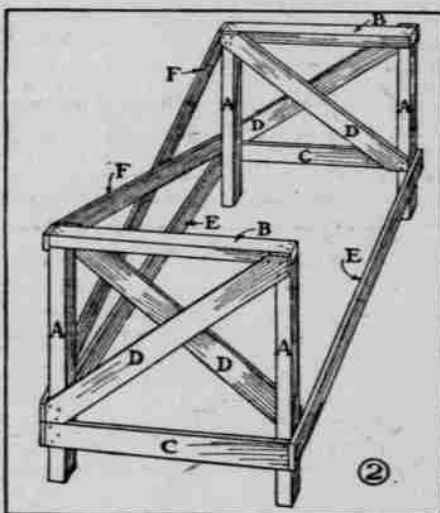


which will be determined by the width you decide to make the bench, the end cross rails (C) are one-by-fours of the same length as pieces B, the side cross rails (E) are one-by-fours, the length of which will be determined by the length you decide to make the bench, and the diagonal braces (D and F) are one-by-fours.

After sawing legs A and top plates B to the proper lengths, spike the plates to the top of the legs, and nail end rails C to the sides four inches above the bottom (Fig. 3.). Then cut diagonal braces D and nail one on each side of the legs, as in Fig. 3.

Connect the end frames with the side rails E (Fig. 2), and then with the diagonal braces F.

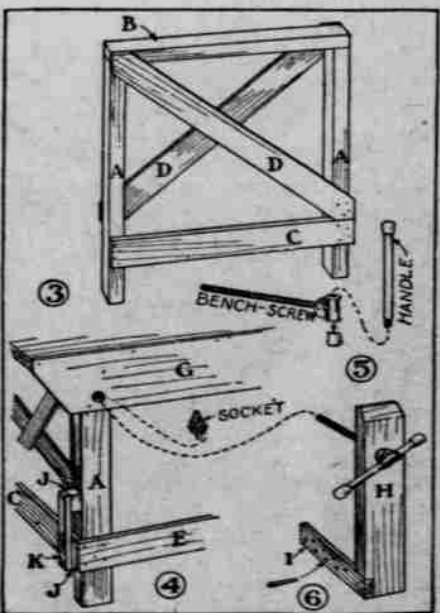
The bench top should have at least one two-inch plank in it, along the



front. Back of this plank one-inch boards may be used to save on the cost of material. A strip of wood of the proper thickness should be nailed to plates B to raise the boards to the height of the plank. The side edges of the bench top should come even with plates B.

When the top has been fastened to the framework, nail an apron (G, Fig. 4) to the front of the bench. Cut this out of an eight-inch board, of the length of the bench, and trim off each end on the diagonal as shown.

The bench-vise requires an iron bench-screw (Fig. 5). This will cost 50 cents at a hardware store. Cut the jaw (H, Fig. 6) out of a piece of two-by-six 20 inches long, bore a hole



through the center of one face six inches below the top, for the bench-screw to stick through, bevel off the top as shown, and notch the lower corner for a sliding-strip (I) a piece one inch thick, three inches wide and 14 inches long.

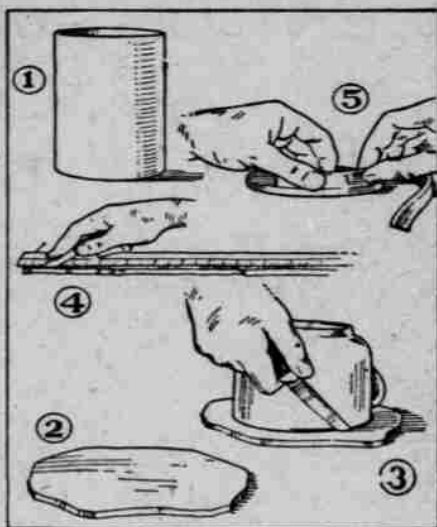
Bore a hole through apron G and the left-hand bench leg, at exactly the same distance below the bench top that the hole in the jaw was bored below its top; then enlarge this hole, upon the inside of the leg, as much as is necessary for the iron threaded socket (Fig. 4) to fit in, and fasten the socket in the hole with screws.

HOME-MADE POTTERY.

First you must get the clay. Modeling clay can be purchased wherever artists' materials are sold.

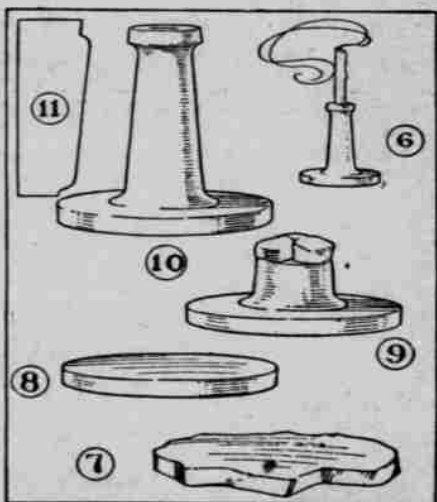
You must have, a small board to work upon, a pie tin on which to build, a knife, a short stick flat on one end and pointed on the other, and a ruler.

Begin the little jar in Fig. 1 with its base. Put a handful of clay on the board, pat it out with your hand until 1/4 inch thick, and smooth off the surface (Fig. 2). Then take a coffee cup, invert it upon the base, and with your knife trim away the clay outside of the rim (Fig. 3). To build up the walls, put a handful of clay on the work board, and smooth it out into a



long strip 1/4 inch thick. Then with knife and ruler trim off one edge of the piece, and cut a number of strips 3/4 inch wide (Fig. 4). Taking one strip, stand it on top of the base, and rub its edge into the base (Fig. 5). Continue building the walls by placing one strip upon another, joining each to the one beneath, and smoothing over the joints as you go, until the walls are as high as you want them to be. Fill uneven places with bits of clay, and smooth out rough places with your fingers, moistened with water.

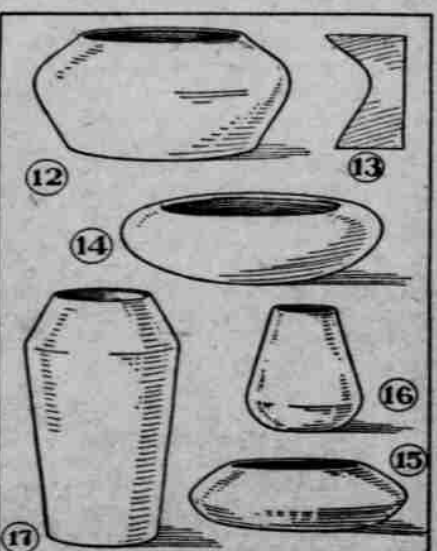
When you have learned how to build with clay, you will be able to construct any of the articles shown in Figs. 6 to 17. To make the candlestick (Fig. 6), prepare a round base 1/2 inch thick



(Figs. 7 and 8). Then put a lump of clay in the center, work it into the base, place another lump on top and work it into the lower portion (Fig. 9), and continue in this way until the candlestick is as high as you want it. Then force a candle into the moist clay, twisting it around until it has made a deep enough socket for itself (Fig. 10).

A cardboard "templet," with one edge trimmed to the proper shape, makes it easy to get the walls symmetrical and projections equal (Fig. 11).

When you must leave a piece unfinished, cover it with a wet cloth to keep the clay from hardening. Pottery that you buy is glazed, and then fired hard in a kiln, but we cannot use this process, and it is unnecessary. The clay will dry hard enough, and the



only thing we must look after is waterproofing the pieces that are to hold water. This can be done with bathtub enamel. The enamel may be mixed with pigments for outside surfaces, and by experimenting you will be able to get some very pretty color effects. Try ornamenting your pottery by drawing designs upon it with a pointed stick.

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JUSTIFICATION FOR THE JURY

Defendant Explained Answer That at First Somewhat Puzzled the Learned Judge.

"Guilty or not guilty?" asked the clerk.

"Yes!" replied the prisoner, emphatically.

Slowly the judge lifted his eyes from his desk and fixed them wistfully upon the miscreant.

"Eh!" said his lordship in a fearsome voice. "What do you mean by such an answer as that?"

"This chap with the face," replied the prisoner, pointing toward the clerk, "asked me whether I was guilty or not guilty, and I said 'Yes.' And it's true. I can't help being one or the other."

"But which are you?" inquired the judge.

"My lord," said the wicked culprit, "if I answered that, what use would you have for the jury?"

And the villain looked around him with an air of innocent inquiry, while the judge tried to explain to the jury what he meant.—Tit-Bits.

The people not only follow leaders, but they are perfectly willing to pay for the privilege of doing so.

The woman who hesitates at an auction saves money.

As Ordered.

The menu of a certain restaurant is a thing of wonder to strangers. It contains several pages of various dishes, all classified, mostly with weird French names.

The country visitor eyed it up and eyed it down, but could make nothing of it. And the waiter stood silently by his side.

At last, in despair, the diner dabbed his finger in the middle of one page, and said:

"Bring me some o' that."

"Oui, m'sieu!" replied the waiter.

"That ees mayonnaise dressing, sar."

"I know that, my man," snorted the countryman. "I can read!"

"But, m'sieu," said the waiter, apologetically, "what will you have it on?"

The diner glared.

"On a plate, of course, you idiot!" he roared. "Do you feed your guests in troughs at this restaurant?"

No Harm Done.

"What was the idea of putting old Grumps on the house committee of the Country club?"

"Well, he's so unpopular already that we thought it wouldn't make much difference if he became a little more so."

The gloomy man distresses himself most.

A man who is completely wrapped up in himself is a bundle of conceit.

NO PLAYMATE FOR EUGENE

Mother's Darling Henceforth Would Not Associate With Wicked Little Richard Whitney.

Mrs. Atherton had tried to impress upon her young son, Eugene, that he should play only with good boys.

"Mother," said Eugene, as he came in one day, "you don't want me to play with wicked boys, do you?"

"No, indeed," said the mother, pleased that her son had remembered her teachings.

"Well, if one boy kicks another little boy, isn't it wicked for him to kick back?"

"Yes, indeed, it is certainly very wicked," was the mother's reply.

"Then I don't play with Richard Whitney any more," said Eugene; "he's too wicked. I kicked him this morning, and he kicked me back."—Chicago Journal.

Proof to the Contrary.

"All kinds of cats hate water."

"How about a sea puss?"—Baltimore American.

A man seldom says what he thinks. Instead, he says what he thinks you think.

The use of the mosquito is to show us that troubles are not always in proportion to their size.

The Breakfast Shapes the Day

Load the stomach up with a breakfast of rich, greasy food, and you clog both digestion and mind.

For real work—real efficiency—try a breakfast of

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Some fruit, an egg, toast, and a cup of hot Postum.

Then tackle the work ahead with vigor and a keen mind. There's joy in it.

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